

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



January 10, 1996

ALL COUNTY LETTER 96-01  
Medi-Cal All County Welfare Directors'  
Letter No. 96-01

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

REASON FOR TRANSMITTAL

- ☐ State Law Change
- ☐ Federal Law Change
- ☒ Court Order or Settlement Agreement
- ☐ Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
- ☐ Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION ACT  
(NVRA) AND OF WILSON v. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

REFERENCES: All County Welfare Directors' Letter (Subject: Implementation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993), ACIN No. I-46-94/Medi-Cal All County Welfare Directors' Letter, ACL No. 95-26/Medi-Cal All County Welfare Directors' Letter 95-36

County Welfare Departments (CWDs) were advised by All County Welfare Directors' Letter dated January 4, 1996, that on November 2, 1995, the U.S. District Court had ordered that remedial relief be provided to those individuals who should have been provided voter registration services at social service agencies between January 1 and June 19, 1995, but were not because the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) had not been implemented. On January 5, 1996, a further court order (enclosed) specified additional implementation activities.

The purpose of this letter is to provide instructions to CWDs in response to the court order. As a means of complying with the Court's instructions and to reduce the administrative burden on CWDs, the State will mail a notification to households who currently receive assistance. This notification contains information in English and Spanish on how to obtain voter registration application materials.

However, the State's central data base does not include information regarding denials. Therefore, CWDs will need to identify and mail the enclosed notification to those households (Medically Needy Only, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and Food Stamp) who applied for assistance and were denied between January 1 and June 19, 1995. The camera-ready copy of this mailer is intended to be printed back to back (English opposite Spanish). If desired, it could be produced with three notifications to a page (three-up format) and cut to stuffer size. In conformance with the court's January order, counties that have not printed these notices before January 19 must include on this mailer the information that an applicant must register to vote by February 26 in order to be eligible to vote in the March 26 election. Counties are expected to attempt to complete their mailing by February 12, 1996. Counties that completed their printing before January 19 are exempted from amending the earlier version of the mailer to include the February and March dates.

The court's January order further directs that counties must ask every person who visits a welfare office, for any purpose, whether the visitor wishes to register to vote and must provide a voter registration application form if requested. This procedure must be initiated no later than February 1 and end no sooner than August 1, 1996. Counties will not be required to provide a declination form, nor to offer assistance in completing the registration form to fulfill this court-ordered procedure. This activity at the reception desk is separate from and does not affect the on-going requirements of the NVRA which must be carried out at intake; those activities include use of the declination form and assistance in completing the application form.

#### Fiscal Claiming

The State will participate in the non-federal costs of implementation at normal sharing ratios for the AFDC, Food Stamp and Medi-Cal Programs. Counties should follow claiming procedures outlined in County Fiscal Letter (CFL) 95/96-13, issued by the Fiscal Policy Bureau. Please direct questions regarding claiming to the Fiscal Policy Bureau at (916) 657-3440.

#### General Information

If you have questions regarding compliance with the court order, please contact Ellen O'Connor in the Food Programs Branch at (916) 653-5420 or Marlene King in the Medi-Cal Eligibility Program Branch at (916) 657-0134.



BRUCE WAGSTAFF  
Deputy Director  
Welfare Programs Division



FRANK S. MARTUCCI  
Chief  
Medi-Cal Eligibility

Enclosure

1 ROBERT RUBIN (Bar No. 85084)  
 2 THEODORE HSIEN WANG (Bar No. 151318)  
 3 NANCY M. STUART (Bar No. 172896)  
 4 Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights  
 5 of the San Francisco Bay Area  
 6 301 Mission St. Suite 400  
 7 San Francisco, CA 94105  
 8 (415) 543-9444

9 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

FILED

JAN 5 1996

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 SAN JOSE

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 11 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 VOTING RIGHTS COALITION, et al.,  
 13 Plaintiffs,

14 vs.

15 PETE WILSON, et al.,  
 16 Defendants.

CASE No. C-94-20860 JW  
 CASE No. 95-20042 JW

(CLASS ACTION)

[REDACTED] STIPULATED  
 ORDER

17  
 18  
 19  
 20  
 21 This matter is before the Court pursuant to the parties'  
 22 respective motions to amend the Court's Order entered November 2,  
 23 1995. The parties have conferred and stipulated as follows  
 24 regarding equitable remedial relief on behalf of those persons  
 25 who were denied the benefits of the NVRA at social service  
 26 agencies between January 1, 1995 and June 19, 1995.  
 27  
 28

Accordingly, Defendants agree to:

1. Send each and every person who, as of November 1, 1995, is known to the State Central Welfare Database, which includes Medi-Cal, AFDC and Food Stamp recipients, a notice advising that they may phone an "800" number to request a voter registration form be mailed to them and identifying locations where voter registration forms may be obtained in person. Such mailing is to be completed by January 31, 1996.

2. Send each and every person, with a last known address in California, who was denied Medi-Cal, AFDC, or Food Stamp benefits between January 1, 1995 and June 19, 1995, a notice advising that they may phone an "800" number to request a voter registration form be mailed to them and identifying locations where voter registration forms may be obtained in person. All counties that have not printed the above notice as of January 19, 1996 shall include an admonition in that notice that February 26, 1996 is the last day to register to vote to be eligible for the March 26, 1996 election. All counties shall make a good faith effort to complete this mailing by February 12, 1996.

3. Ask each and every person who visits, for any purpose, a county welfare office which provides NVRA services whether he/she wishes to register to vote. Persons indicating that they wish to register to vote will be handed a voter registration form. A notice shall be sent directing County welfare departments to initiate this procedure of questioning and providing voter registration forms. This procedure is to continue for six

months, beginning as soon as possible but no later than February 1, 1996 and ending no sooner than August 1, 1996.

Cyrus J. Rickards  
Cyrus J. Rickards  
Counsel for Wilson, et al.

Holly Wiseman cc  
Holly Wiseman  
Counsel for United States, et al.

Robert Rubin  
Robert Rubin  
Counsel for Voting Rights Coalition, et al.

The Court hereby adopts this stipulation as its Order and vacates that portion of its November 2, 1995 Order appearing at page 8, lines 9-17.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: January 5, 1996

James Ware  
James Ware  
United States District Judge

[PROPOSED] STIPULATED ORDER

3

# Register to vote

If you wish to register to vote, you may call 1-800-345-8683 to request a voter registration form. A pre-addressed postage paid voter form will be mailed to you. Simply fill out the form and return it by mail.

You must register to vote by February 26, 1996 in order to vote in the March 26, 1996 election.



You may also pick up a form at:

- county election offices
- most local post offices
- most public libraries
- the Department of Motor Vehicles
- public social service agencies

TEMP 2112 (ENG/SP) (1/96)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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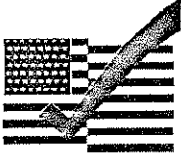
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TEMP 2112 (ENG/SP) (1/96)

# Regístrese (empadrónese) para Votar

Si usted desea registrarse para votar, puede llamar al 1-800-345-8683 para solicitar una forma de registro de votante. Se le enviará por correo una forma de votante rotulada y con porte postal pagado. Simplemente llénela y devuélvala por correo.

Para votar en la elección del 26 de marzo de 1996, tiene que registrarse a más tardar el 26 de febrero de 1996.



También puede obtener una forma en:

- oficinas electorales de los condados
- la mayoría de las oficinas de correo
- la mayoría de las bibliotecas públicas
- el Departamento de Vehículos Motorizados
- agencias de servicios sociales públicos

TEMP 2112 (ENG/SP) (1/96)

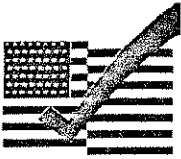
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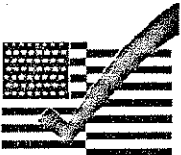
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